

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A produce packaging system comprising in operative combination:

a basket including:

a basket body; and

a lid; and

a latch for reversibly securing said lid to said basket body;

a first horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of said basket;

a second horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of said basket, said second horizontal ventilation slot being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first horizontal ventilation slot;

a tray for receiving therein said basket, wherein the tray is configured to include: [[:]]

first cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of said tray, said first cutaway portions further disposed so as to align with said first horizontal ventilation slot of the basket; and

second cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of said tray, said second cutaway portions further disposed so as to align with said second horizontal ventilation slot of the basket.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A basket for use in a produce packaging system that includes including a tray for receiving therein the basket, the tray defining wherein the tray includes at least one first cutaway portion defined by and disposed upon in an upper portion of said tray and at least one second cutaway portion defined by and disposed upon in said upper portion of said tray, said first cutaway portion being disposed substantially perpendicular to said second cutaway portion, said basket comprising in operative combination:

a basket body;

a lid for closing said basket body;
a latch for reversibly securing said lid to said basket body;
a first horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of said basket and disposed ~~so as to align~~ to enable alignment with said first cutaway portion; and
a second horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of the basket, said second horizontal ventilation slot being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first horizontal ventilation slot and disposed ~~so as to align~~ to enable alignment with said second cutaway portion.

Claim 3 (original): The basket of claim 2 wherein said basket further comprises an upper vent.

Claim 4 (original): The basket of claim 3 wherein said upper vent is disposed on a substantially upper portion of said lid.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The basket of claim 2 wherein said basket further comprises ~~an~~ a lower vent.

Claim 6 (original): The basket of claim 5 wherein said lower vent is disposed on a substantially lower portion of said basket body.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The basket of claim 2 wherein said basket body and said lid in operative combination further ~~define~~, when said lid is positioned in a secured position with respect to said basket body, at least one of said first horizontal ventilation slot and said second horizontal ventilation slot.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The basket of claim 2 wherein said basket body ~~further~~ defines at least one of said first horizontal ventilation slot and said second horizontal ventilation slot.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The basket of claim 2 wherein said lid ~~further~~ defines at least one of said first horizontal ventilation slot and said second horizontal ventilation slot.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The basket of claim 2 wherein said latch ~~wherein said latch~~ is selected from the group consisting of: edge catch, button catch, snap, hook-and-loop closure, shrinkwrap banding, elastic band, and adhesive tape.

Claim 11 (original): The basket of claim 2 wherein said latch further comprises a pair of toothed vertically mating latches including a first engageable tooth disposed upon said basket body and a second engageable tooth disposed upon said lid.

Claim 12 (original): The basket of claim 11 wherein said latch further comprises a plurality of pairs of toothed vertically mating latches.

Claim 13 (original): The basket of claim 2 wherein said basket is a one-piece structure, said basket defining both said basket body and said lid as an integral unit.

Claim 14 (original): The basket of claim 13 wherein said basket further defines a flexible hinge joining said basket body and said lid.

Claim 15 (original): The basket of claim 14 wherein at least one of said first horizontal ventilation slot and said second horizontal ventilation slot is defined in said flexible hinge.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A tray configured for use in a produce packaging system, the system including a basket and the tray, wherein the tray is configured for receiving therein said basket, said basket including a basket body and a lid reversibly securable together with ~~[[,]] a latch for reversibly securing said lid to the basket body, and having~~ a first set of horizontal ventilation slots formed in an upper portion of said basket and a second set of horizontal ventilation slots formed in an upper portion of said basket, said second set of horizontal ventilation slots being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first set of horizontal ventilation slots,

the tray comprising in operative combination:

first cutaway portions defined by ~~and disposed upon~~ an upper portion of said tray and configured, ~~said first cutaway portions further disposed so as to align with said first horizontal ventilation slot~~ such that, when the basket is placed in the tray, a first cutaway portion is alignable with at least one of the set of first horizontal ventilation slots of said basket to enable

cooling airflow to pass through said first cutaway portion and through said at least one of the set of first horizontal ventilation slots into the basket in a first direction; and

~~second cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of said tray ;~~
~~said second cutaway portion being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first cutaway~~
~~portion, further disposed so as to align with said second horizontal ventilation slot and~~
configured such that, when the basket is placed in the tray, a second cutaway portion is
alignable with at least one of the set of second horizontal ventilation slots of said basket to
enable cooling airflow to pass through said first cutaway portion and through said at least one
of the set of second horizontal ventilation slots into the basket in a second direction.

Claim 17 (original): The tray of claim 16 wherein said tray further comprises a bottom, first and second ends, and first and second sides.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The tray of claim 17 further comprising a tab formed in an upper portion of at least one of said first and second ends.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The tray of claim 18 further comprising a receptacle formed in a lower portion of at least one of said first and second ends, said receptacle for receiving therein said tab formed in a second tray.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A produce packaging system comprising in operative combination:

a basket including;

a basket body; and

a lid;

a latch for reversibly securing said lid to said basket body;

a ventilation channel formed in a lower surface of said basket body;

a first and a second horizontal ventilation slot formed at opposing first and second ends of the basket in an upper portion of said basket;

a third and a fourth ~~second~~ horizontal ventilation slot formed at opposing third and fourth ends of the basket in an upper portion of said basket, said ~~second-third and fourth~~ horizontal ventilation slots being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first and second horizontal ventilation slots;

a lower vent further disposed on said lower surface of said basket body in communication with said ventilation channel;

a tray for receiving therein said basket, said tray including: defining paired lower tray vents disposed at opposing ends of the tray upon a lower portion of said tray, said lower tray vents further disposed so as to align with said ventilation channel when said basket is installed in said tray;

first cutaway portion defined by ~~and disposed upon~~ an upper portion of said tray, said first cutaway portion further disposed so as to align with ~~said first~~ at least one of said first and second horizontal ventilation slots; and

second cutaway portion defined by ~~and disposed upon~~ an upper portion of said tray, said second cutaway portion further disposed so as to align with ~~said second~~ at least one of said third and fourth horizontal ventilation slots.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A basket for use in a produce packaging system including a tray for receiving therein said basket, said tray defining paired lower tray vents disposed upon a lower portion of said tray, first cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of said tray, and second cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of said tray, said basket comprising, in operative combination:

a basket body;

a lid for closing said basket body;

a latch for reversibly securing said lid to said basket body;

a ventilation channel formed in a lower surface of said basket body;

a lower vent further disposed on said lower surface of said basket body in communication with said ventilation channel;

a first set of horizontal ventilation slots formed in an upper portion of said basket, wherein the first horizontal ventilation slots are configured to be alignable with said first cutaway portion; and

a second set of horizontal ventilation slots formed in an upper portion of said basket, said second set of horizontal ventilation slots being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first set of horizontal ventilation slots and wherein the second set of horizontal ventilation slots are configured to be alignable with said second cutaway portion.

Claim 22 (original): The basket of claim 21 wherein said upper vent is disposed on a substantially upper portion of said lid.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The basket of claim 21 wherein said basket body and said lid in operative combination further define, when said lid is positioned in a secured position with respect to said basket body, at least one of said first set of horizontal ventilation slots and said second set of horizontal ventilation slots.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The basket of claim 21 wherein said basket body further defines at least one of said first set of horizontal ventilation slots and said second set of horizontal ventilation slots.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The basket of claim 21 wherein said lid further defines at least one of said first set of horizontal ventilation slots and said second set of horizontal ventilation slots.

Claim 26 (original): The basket of claim 21 wherein said latch further comprises a pair of toothed vertically mating latches including a first engageable tooth disposed upon said basket body and a second engageable tooth disposed upon said lid.

Claim 27 (original): The basket of claim 26 wherein said latch further comprises a plurality of pairs of toothed vertically mating latches.

Claim 28 (original): The basket of claim 21 wherein said basket is a one-piece structure, said basket defining both said basket body and said lid as an integral unit.

Claim 29 (original): The basket of claim 28 wherein said basket further defines a flexible hinge joining said basket body and said lid.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The basket of claim 29 wherein at least one ventilation slot of the at least one of said first set of horizontal ventilation slots and said second set of horizontal ventilation slots is defined in said flexible hinge.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A tray for use in a produce packaging system including a basket, the tray for receiving therein said basket, said basket including a basket body and a lid, a latch for reversibly securing said lid to said basket body, a ventilation channel formed in a lower

surface of said basket body, a first horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of said basket and a second horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of said basket, said second horizontal ventilation slot being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first horizontal ventilation slot, the tray comprising in operative combination:

a lower tray vent disposed upon a lower portion of said tray, said lower tray vents ~~further disposed so as to align~~ are arranged to be alignable with said ventilation channel when said basket is installed in said tray;

a first cutaway portion defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of said tray, said first cutaway portion ~~further disposed so as to align~~ are arranged to be alignable with said first horizontal ventilation slot; and

a second cutaway portion defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of said tray and being disposed substantially perpendicular to said first cutaway portion, said second cutaway portion ~~further disposed so as to align~~ are arranged to be alignable with said second horizontal ventilation slot.

Claim 32 (original): The tray of claim 31 wherein said tray further comprises a bottom, first and second ends, and first and second sides.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The tray of claim 32 further comprising a tab formed in an upper portion of at least one of said first and second ends.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The tray of claim 32 further comprising a receptacle formed in a lower portion of at least one of said first and second ends, said receptacle for receiving therein said tab formed in a second tray.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A produce packaging system comprising in operative combination:

a basket and a tray wherein the basket is loaded into the tray;

the [[a]] basket including:

a basket body and a lid;

a latch for reversibly securing the lid to the basket body;

a ventilation channel formed in a lower surface of the basket body, said channel configured to align with the lower tray vents of the tray when the basket is installed in the tray;

a first horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of the basket and configured to align with the first cutaway portions of the tray when the basket is installed in the tray;

a second horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of the basket, the second horizontal ventilation slot being disposed substantially perpendicular to the first horizontal ventilation slot and configured formed to align with the second cutaway portions of the tray when the basket is installed in the tray;

a lower vent further disposed on the lower surface of the basket body in communication with the ventilation channel;

~~a tray for receiving therein the basket,~~
the tray comprising:

a bottom, first and second ends and first and second sides;

paired lower tray vents disposed on a lower portion of the first and second ends, the lower tray vents further disposed ~~so as to align~~ to be alignable with the ventilation channel when the basket is installed in the tray;

first cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of the tray and disposed ~~so as to align~~ to be alignable with the first horizontal ventilation slot when the basket is installed in the tray; and

second cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of the tray and disposed ~~so as to align~~ to be alignable with the second horizontal ventilation slot when the basket is installed in the tray.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A basket for use in a produce packaging system including a tray for receiving therein the basket, the tray defining paired lower tray vents disposed upon a lower portion of the tray, first cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of the tray and second cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of the tray, the basket comprising in operative combination:

a basket including a basket body and a lid;

a latch for reversibly securing the lid to the basket body;

a ventilation channel formed in a lower surface of the basket body ~~to align~~ configured such that the channel can be aligned with the lower tray vents when the basket is installed in the tray;

a first horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of the basket ~~to align~~
configured such that the first horizontal ventilation slot can be aligned with the first cutaway
portions of the tray when the basket is installed in the tray;

a second horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of the basket, the second
horizontal ventilation slot being disposed substantially perpendicular to the first horizontal
ventilation slot and ~~formed to align~~ configured such that the second horizontal ventilation slot
can be aligned with the second cutaway portions of the tray when the basket is installed in the
tray; and

a lower vent further disposed on the lower surface of the basket body in communication
with the ventilation channel.

Claim 37 (original): A tray for use in a produce packaging system including a basket receivable
into said tray, the basket including a basket body and a lid, a latch for reversibly securing the lid
to the basket body, a ventilation channel formed in a lower surface of the basket body, a first
horizontal ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of the basket, a second horizontal
ventilation slot formed in an upper portion of the basket, the second horizontal ventilation slot
being disposed substantially perpendicular to the first horizontal ventilation slot and a lower vent
further disposed on the lower surface of the basket body in communication with the ventilation
channel, the tray comprising, in operative combination:

a tray for receiving therein the basket, the tray comprising a bottom, first and second ends
and first and second sides;

paired lower tray vents disposed on a lower portion of the first and second ends, the
lower tray vents further disposed so as to align with the ventilation channel when the basket is
installed in the tray;

first cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of the tray and
disposed so as to align with the first horizontal ventilation slot when the basket is installed in the
tray; and

second cutaway portions defined by and disposed upon an upper portion of the tray and
disposed so as to align with the second horizontal ventilation slot when the basket is installed in
the tray.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A produce container comprising:

a basket body;

a lid for covering the basket body;

a latch for securing the lid to said basket body;
at least one ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein the at least one ventilation slot includes a plurality of ~~at least two~~ ventilation slots formed between the basket body and the lid, the plurality of ~~at least two~~ ventilation slots arranged so that a bi-directional airflow of cooling air can pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the lid is attached to the basket body using a hinge and wherein the hinge includes at least one ventilation slot formed therein.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the produce container is configured for use with a tray, the tray capable of holding a plurality of the produce containers and including a plurality of ventilation apertures arranged in the sidewalls of the tray to facilitate bi-directional cooling airflow through the tray and facilitate bi-directional cooling airflow through any produce containers placed therein, wherein the plurality of ~~at least two~~ ventilation slots of the produce container, ~~formed between the basket body and the lid,~~ are arranged so that a bi-directional airflow of cooling air can pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 41 wherein at least some of the plurality of ~~at least two~~ ventilation slots of the produce container are configured so that they are capable of being aligned with associated ventilation apertures of the sidewalls of the tray when the produce container is placed within the tray thereby facilitating bi-directional cooling airflow through the tray and through the produce container.

Claim 43 (currently presented): The produce container of Claim 41 for use with a tray having other produce containers loaded in the tray, wherein the plurality of ~~at least two~~ ventilation slots of the produce container are configured so that they are capable of being aligned with associated ventilation apertures of the sidewalls of the tray and aligned with ventilation slots of other produce containers in the tray when the produce container is placed

within the tray thereby facilitating bi-directional cooling airflow through the tray, the other produce containers, and the produce container.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the basket body includes a substantially flat bottom surface.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein a bottom surface of the produce container includes a ventilation channel that enables cooling air to flow underneath the container.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 45 wherein the bottom surface of the produce container includes at least one lower aperture in communication with the ventilation channel that enables cooling air to flow underneath the container.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the latch for securing the lid to said basket body comprises a latching means for reversibly securing the lid to the basket body.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the latch for securing the lid to said basket body is selected from among the group consisting of: tooth engagement latches; edge catch latches; button latches; hook-and-loop closures; shrinkwrap banding; elastic banding; and adhesive tape.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein at least one of the basket body and the lid include structural ribbing.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein the basket body and the lid are devoid of structural ribbing.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein at least one of the basket body and the lid include structural ribbing.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the basket body and the lid are devoid of structural ribbing.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein the lid is attached to the basket body using a hinge and wherein the hinge includes at least one ventilation slot formed therein.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the basket body includes a front portion, a back portion, and two opposing side portions;
and

wherein the plurality of at least two ventilation slots include: front ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid at the front portion of the container, back ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid at the back portion of the container, and side ventilation slots formed between the basket body and the lid at each of the opposing side portions of the container, thereby accommodating bi-directional airflow of cooling air that can pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 54 wherein the lid is attached to the basket body using a hinge connecting the lid to the basket body at the back portion of the body, the hinge having at least one ventilation slot formed therein.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 54 wherein said front ventilation slot includes a plurality of ventilation slots formed between the basket body and the lid at the front portion of the container.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 54 wherein said side ventilation slots include at least one ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid at each of the opposing side portions of the container.

Claim 58 (currently amended): A produce container comprising:
a basket body;
a lid for closing said basket body;
a latch for reversibly securing said lid to said basket body;

a plurality of at least two ventilation slots formed between the basket body and the lid, the plurality of at least two ventilation slots arranged so that an airflow of cooling air can pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 58 wherein the produce container is configured for use with a tray, the tray capable of holding a plurality of the produce containers and including a plurality of ventilation apertures arranged in the sidewalls of the tray to facilitate a cooling airflow through the tray and facilitate cooling airflow through any produce containers placed therein, wherein the plurality of at least two ventilation slots, ~~formed between the basket body and the lid~~ of the container [[,]] are disposed on the container so that when the container is placed within the tray the ventilation slots are in substantial alignment with the selected ventilation apertures of the tray so that an airflow of cooling air can pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 60 (withdrawn): The produce container of Claim 58 wherein the basket body includes a substantially flat bottom surface.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 58 wherein a bottom surface of the produce container includes a ventilation channel that enables cooling air to flow underneath the container.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 61 wherein the bottom surface of the produce container comprises an arched surface that operates as a ventilation channel that enables cooling air to flow underneath the container.

Claim 63 (withdrawn): The produce container of Claim 58 wherein at least one of the basket body and the lid include structural ribbing.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 58 wherein the basket body and the lid are devoid of structural ribbing.

Claim 65 (new): A produce container comprising:
a basket body;

a lid for covering the basket body;
a latch for securing the lid to said basket body; and
a plurality of ventilation slots arranged to enable bi-directional cooling airflow through interior of the container.

Claim 66 (new): The produce container of Claim 65 wherein the walls of the basket are substantially smooth and wherein the plurality of ventilation slots are formed in an upper portion of the produce container.

Claim 67 (new): The produce container of Claim 66 wherein the container includes a front, back and two sides and the plurality of ventilation slots include at least one ventilation slot formed in each of said front, back, and two sides.

Claim 68 (new): The produce container of Claim 67 wherein the plurality of ventilation slots comprise horizontal ventilation slots.

Claim 69 (new): The produce container of Claim 68 wherein at least some of the plurality of horizontal ventilation slots are arranged between the lid and the basket.

Claim 70 (new): The produce container of Claim 67 wherein the lid is connected to the basket body using a hinge.

Claim 71 (new): The produce container of Claim 70 wherein at least some of the plurality of ventilation slots are arranged between the lid and the basket.

Claim 72 (new): The produce container of Claim 70 wherein the hinge connecting the lid to the basket is formed at the back of the container.

Claim 73 (new): The produce container of Claim 70 wherein at least one ventilation slot is formed in the hinge.

Claim 74 (new): The produce container of Claim 70 wherein the basket body further includes a bottom surface configured to enable a cooling airflow to pass underneath the container.

Claim 75 (new): The produce container of Claim 74 wherein the bottom surface of the basket body is configured to form a ventilation channel enabling the cooling airflow to pass underneath the container.

Claim 76 (new): The produce container of Claim 65 wherein the basket body further includes a bottom surface enabling a cooling airflow to pass underneath the container.

Claim 77 (new): The produce container of Claim 76 wherein the bottom surface of the basket body is configured to form a ventilation channel that enables the cooling airflow to pass underneath the container.

Claim 78 (new): The produce container of Claim 76 wherein the latch comprises a button latch.

Claim 79 (new): The produce container of Claim 76 wherein the basket body includes substantially smooth sidewalls.

Claim 80 (new): The produce container of Claim 76 wherein the container includes a front, back and two sides and the plurality of ventilation slots include at least one ventilation slot formed in each of said front, back, and two sides.

Claim 81 (new): The produce container of Claim 80 wherein the lid is connected to the basket body using a hinge.

Claim 82 (new): The produce container of Claim 81 wherein at least one ventilation slot is formed in the hinge.